

Levelock Village Council

Box 70

Levelock AK 99625

ph(907)287-3030

fax(907)287-3032

email: levelock@starband.net

June 12, 2012

**Administrator Lisa P. Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460**

Dear Administrator Jackson,

The Levelock Village Council would like to thank you and the Environmental Protection Agency for your continued efforts in regards to the Bristol Bay. We are very appreciative of your hard work and persistent attention to the issues pertaining to our area of the United States.

We would like to extend our support of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. We have waited two long years to read it, and feel that it is one more necessary step in the process for complete protection of the Bristol Bay waters, its wildlife, and its people. We know a lot of work went into the assessment and we are pleased with the results.

The Levelock Village Council would like to request that the commenting period for the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment not be extended past the July 23, 2012 deadline. We understand that this is an extremely important document, that you need time to develop a solid and well documented scientific case for the protection of the Bristol Bay, and that the timeframe given for commenting is sufficient to further the process of completing the assessment. The State of Alaska generally allows for a commenting period of 30 days regardless of the issue, so we feel that the Environmental Protection Agency's commenting time frame is more than adequate.

We appreciate the willingness of the federal Environmental Protection to acknowledge our concerns and work diligently at addressing them.

Finally, we commend the Environmental Protection Agency in their steadfast approach to assure the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment is based in "good" science, and in so doing,

created a Scientific Peer Review Team. We do, however, have concerns with the appointment of Phyllis Webber Scannell for the following reasons:

(1) She was hired by ADF&G to inspect the Pebble Exploration in 2010, after the lawsuit was filed. She found that PLP's operation was good "each drill site was kept clean and free of litter. All waste is removed from the site...no drilling was being conducted near water bodies." She asked permission to meet with Pebble people (Mike Smith, Ken Taylor, Charlott Mckay).

(2)She received a "gift of travel" from PLP valued at \$1,212 when she inspected the Pebble site.

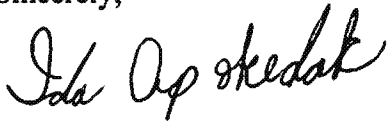
(3) Her study of "Effects of Copper on Aquatic Resources" (Literature review) was found lacking by Straus Consulting because the review did not present a complete review of available literature, contained several important technical errors, and confused certain important toxicological concepts.

(4) She got a \$50,000 contract with the State to provide recommendations and fish and wildlife impact analysis to ADF&G on water quality, solid waste disposal permits, aquatic toxicology and related issues associated with large mine projects in or potentially affecting Alaska, including the Pebble Project.

Please consider these concerns with regards to the Scientific Peer Review Team.

Again, we would like to extend our continued appreciation for your actions and the involvement of the Environmental Protection Agency in this matter. We look forward to the day our beloved Bristol Bay is protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ida Apokedak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ida" being more prominent.

President Ida Apokedak
Levelock Village Council